

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are all the claims pending in this application. Claims 5-12 have been withdrawn pursuant to an election of species filed on July 17, 2007. Applicants duly affirm the election. Claims 1 and 2 have been editorially amended for the sake of clarity.

Objection-Specification

In the Office Action dated October 12, 2007, the Examiner objected to the abstract of disclosure, alleging that its length exceeded 150 words. The abstract has been amended and Applicants respectfully submit that it is now in compliance with all requirements. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that this objection be withdrawn.

Objection-Claims

The Examiner also objected to claim 2, alleging that there was insufficient antecedent basis for the words "the air axis" as used in line 4 of that claim. The forgoing amendment to claim 2 is believed to overcome the objection. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1, 2 and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kostrov et al (US 6,706,006, henceforth "Kostrov") in view of French et al (US 6,485,452, henceforth "French") Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

In rejecting claim 1, Examiner alleges that figures 2 and 3 of Kostrov disclose a suction cleansing device having substantially all the features of claim 1 except the jet guiding portion. Applicants submit that the Examiner has misconstrued Kostrov. Kostrov is directed to a hydro-suction vibration bio-stimulator. Figures 2 and 3 disclose the bio-stimulator 5 having a hollow

cavitation chamber 7. The cavitation chamber 7 is shown to have a constant diameter along its length. The cavitation chamber is not shown to be wider at its rear part and converge from the rear part to its front part.

Conversely, claim 1 specifically recites that the vessel body has a hollow portion whose profile converges from its rear part side to its front part side. As shown in the figures of the present application (Fig. 1 for example), the vessel body 2 is hollow and has a profile which as a first diameter at one end and converges to a second, smaller diameter at an opposite end. Applicants submit that Kostrov does not disclose or fairly suggest such a structure as recited in claim 1, one preferred embodiment of which is shown in Fig. 1.

The Examiner further alleges that French teaches a jet-guiding portion disposed at the outer circumferential portion of the air/liquid jet port and is widened to open from the air/liquid jet port toward the jetting direction. Applicants submit that the Examiner has also misconstrued French.

Figure 3 of French discloses a suction and irrigation handpiece, wherein saline is pumped through an annular space 52 and out irrigation holes 96, while a suction is provided by an external source 18. The suction causes the saline and any debris to be sucked up a suction tube 46. Further a splash guard 54 is provided to prevent the saline and debris from splashing while being sucked up. French has no teachings regarding pressurized vessel bodies for mixing air and liquid like the structure shown in the present application. French does not disclose a vessel body having a first diameter and converging down to a second, smaller diameter along its length. Applicants submit that French does not cure the defects of Kostrov discussed above. Therefore, Applicants submit that claim 1 is patentable over the combination of Kostrov and French, and respectfully request that the rejection of claim 1 be withdrawn.

With respect to claim 2, the Examiner alleges that Kostrov also teaches an air-suction port, as recited in claim 2, and refers to reference numeral 14. However, Applicants submit that reference numeral 14 is not an air suction port, but instead is an air outlet port. Lines 35-40 describe reference numeral 14 as an outlet port. Therefore, Applicants submit that Kostrov does not teach an air suction port as recited in claim 2. Further, Applicants submit that claim 2 is dependant from claim 1 which has been shown above to be patentable. Therefore, Applicants submit that claim 2 is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency upon claim 1.

Like claim 2, claim 4 depends from claim 1 which has been shown above to be patentable. Therefore, Applicants submit that claim 4 is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency on claim 1.

Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kostrov in view of French and further in view of Martin (US 6,962,298). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

In rejecting claim 3, the Examiner asserts that Kostrov and French disclose substantially all of the claimed features except for the rotating member and tank portion recited in claim 3. The Examiner further alleges that figures 1, 8 and 9 of Martin teach a suction cleansing device including a rotating member that is attached by being screwed into a threaded portion which is open and formed at the anterior wall of the vessel body. However, Applicants submit that the Examiner has misconstrued Martin.

Martin is directed to a showerhead having a selector mechanism 16 mounted on a side wall. The Examiner has analogized the selector mechanism, which is mounted on a side wall of the head, to the rotating member, which is located in the anterior wall, as recited in claim 3. As discussed in the present specification, placing the rotating member in the anterior wall causes

changes in performance which would not be seen by mounting the rotating member on a side wall. Further, claim 3 is dependant upon claim 1 which has been shown above to be patentable. Martin does not cure the deficiencies of Koslov and French, because it does not disclose a vessel body having a first diameter which converges to a second, smaller diameter. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 3 is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency upon claim 1.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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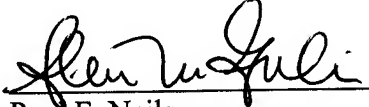
Respectfully submitted,

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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CUSTOMER NUMBER

for  Reg # 36,818
Paul F. Neils
Registration No. 33,102

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